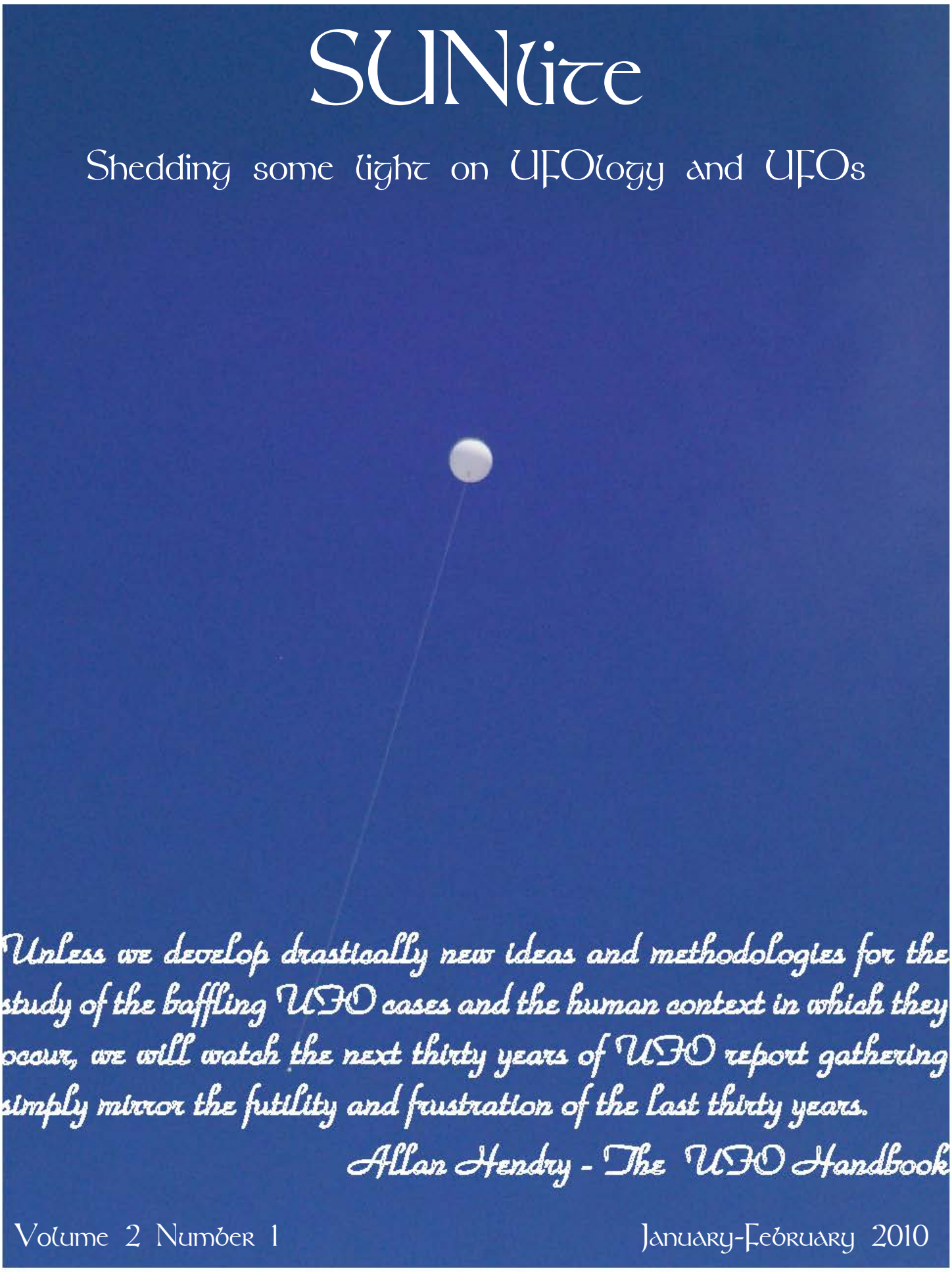
SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



"Unless we develop drastically new ideas and methodologies for the study of the baffling UFO cases and the human context in which they occur, we will watch the next thirty years of UFO report gathering simply mirror the futility and frustration of the last thirty years."

Allan Hendry - The UFO Handbook

Volume 2 Number 1 January-February 2010

Cover: A weather balloon I photographed last May on Astronomy day. This was the balloon seen through my 10" SCT after being airborne for many minutes. To the naked eye it appeared as a dot.

Left: The moon, Jupiter, and Venus above a Christmas scene in NH 2008. My mother-in-law called wondering if the two stars were UFOs. I assured her that they were simply the planets Venus and Jupiter. I described in volume 1 number 1, how a gentlemen reported chasing the two planets in his car during the same time period.

UFOs on vacation, Socorro, and ET commissions

It seems like there are always lots of UFO reports each month. However, with the arrival of the holiday's it seems that UFO news eased off a bit around Thanksgiving and early December. It is probably due to the cooler weather/holidays that keep people from looking up and seeing UFOs. The Bluebook statistics (as well as those presented by Hendry) indicate this is normal. I wonder if any Christmas eve UFOs can be classified as probably Santa?

Elsewhere, I have been monitoring most of what has been happening in UFO land and it seems that quite a few people were stuck on Socorro for the first part of November. Bragalia's articles on the subject created a fire storm across the web and prompted numerous rebuttals and proclamations. After the dust settled, everyone was back at square one on all of this. The case will remain unresolved, which is exactly how UFOlogists want it. Mr. Bragalia will probably still proclaim it was a hoax with very little to support this claim. I commend him for his tenacity but I want to see something more substantial. Without the names of the hoaxers and methodology, the present hoax scenario has very little, if anything, to support it.

Probably the biggest news item was Jeff Peckman's ET initiative is now on the Denver ballot. Apparently, Peckman tried this once before with some sort of "peace initiative" (Probably to push his metatron peace program scam). It failed at the ballot box and I hope that this waste of time and resources will also fail. Don't let Peckman fool you. He claims that no money will be spent by the government but, by just putting it on the ballot, it has already cost the taxpayers money. By being a government related entity, the members of this board will not be able to do or say whatever they wish. There will have to be somebody playing "watchdog", which means resources will have to be expended by the government.

This is all about Peckman finding a way to cash in on publicity and elevating his position in the UFO community. I invited Skeptic Bryan Bonner (co-host of Warning radio and the Rocky Mountain Paranormal Research Society) to provide a piece about the commission. You will find his piece about Stan Romanek very revealing.

In closing, it is interesting to note that, despite bold proclamations all year long, no UFO "disclosure" happened. This is the same promise that has been made for the past fifty years! With that track record, what do you think the odds will be that 2010 will be the year for "disclosure"? I would not bet any money on it.

This issue is a bit lean on stories because of the holidays and other personal business. I apologize but I can promise you there a several stories in the works from a few authors (as well as my own). In order to make sure their work (as well as mine) is complete, I chose not to rush it along just to fill pages.

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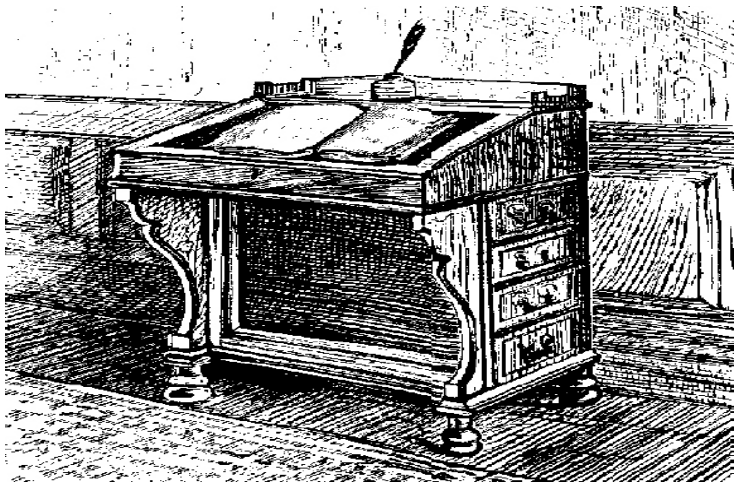
Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions

Kevin Randle spent a lot of time rehashing the old Socorro case. This was "inspired" by Anthony Bragalia's recent story about a student hoax. He brought up some pertinent points and recounted most of the stories about the case. He basically concluded the event is considered unsolved. The comments on his blog was full of the usual heated back and forth between the sides. The multiple comments were pretty much made by the same readers. I have been down this road long ago in various venues. It accomplishes so little. I made my opinion on the case known last issue. I would love to call it solved but nothing so far has done this to my satisfaction.



Frank Warren implied that Stephenville must be active again. Apparently, the residents formed some sort of alert network. They reported a lot of recent jet activity in the area. This is not surprising since there is an Military Operating Area just to the southwest of town. Warren listed a log from "pilot" Steve Allen, who was a principle witness to the 2008 event. He gave an account of jet's "scrambling" and "two whole squadrons" being in the air. I think his use of these words indicate he really does not know much about military operations. A squadron of planes involves about 18-24 aircraft and a "scramble" involves the rapid takeoff of jets from an airbase. Since Stephenville is not near Carswell, it is unlikely he saw them "scrambling" and I doubt he saw some thirty aircraft in operation over Stephenville. It is more likely there were two or three groups of aircraft conducting an exercise. I am curious why nobody has bothered to record this activity with video cameras from various locations. One would think MUFON would set up a surveillance network in a UFO hotbed like Stephenville. Sigh....another lost opportunity for MUFON.

The UFO examiner described nineteen cases that have been investigated by their STAR teams. I was not overly impressed with the cases. They revolved around single witness or groups of witnesses that were not independent of each other. There were some solutions offered on a few but many were listed as "unknown". Two of them caught my eye with potential solutions:

1. One involved witnesses describing seeing UFOs regularly but they looked like stars with the naked eye. When viewed in binoculars, one could see the undersides of the UFOs "spinning". These UFOs were seen regularly for three months. Why didn't MUFON come by with gear to record them if they were so predictable? It does not sound like much of an investigation if you ask me. They sound like scintillating stars.

2. The other case was in Arizona, where a witness saw a bright light in the southwest sky at 10PM. It seems that the witness may have been viewing flare activity over the Barry Goldwater test range, which was in this direction. There is no mention of any effort to see if military activity was happening on the range that night. It was labeled "unknown - UAV".

The remaining "unknown" cases were intriguing but, like these two cases, really were vague about details. In one case, police officers apparently investigated, saw the UFO, and determined that there was not much to the event. I wonder why they would think that?

Another UFO video was posted by Marsh that showed two shapes behind a tree. MUFON investigated and determined them to be balloons. This brought out some cat calls on the blog. Apparently, some people are not interested in any explanation that does not involve alien spaceships.

The final series of reports that caught my eye from MUFON had to do with alien spaceships landing in Texas on two occasions. Alien beings apparently decided to get out and take a stroll on good old Earth. Alas, no evidence has been provided to confirm these stories. My guess is that some people are playing a joke or have vivid imaginations. When MUFON presents some real evidence to support these stories, I will change that opinion.

Michael Cohen still keeps presenting all sorts of wild stories and videos. His latest came from China where a UFO supposedly landed and "light beings" were seen. If you watch the clip, it looks a lot like somebody was shining a bright flashlight against the wall/fence. Cohen really needs to show some sense of skepticism. This is just silly.

Mr. Cohen did not stop with his absurd claims there. According to him, scientists at JPL are looking at a photograph taken by the Spirit rover that shows "possible UFO wreckage". I wonder if Cohen could actually name a non-UFO scientist that thinks these pictures really show alien spaceship debris.

Cohen, in an effort to outdo himself, also stated that many scientists have CORRECTLY determined that the pyramids were built with the help of alien technology. I am not sure what scientists he is discussing but very few believe this. Those that do, tend to sell books instead of actually perform archeological research. It is another wildly false claim.

The final thing Cohen posted that "busted my gut" was a video from Japan. Cohen refers to it as an "emerald UFO". If you ask me it looks like somebody recorded a

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

scintillating star. There is absolutely nothing in this video that indicates otherwise.

Skeptic Karen Stollznow of Australia made some good comments about the ET commission initiative by Jeff Peckman. Her commentary is well worth the read and spares no punches. Peckman deserves the criticism. His ET commission is a farce (just like his little program that enhances peace through your computer). I hope the voters of Denver learn this and vote it down.

A great UFO case appeared in many blogs on December 9th. When I first saw the video, I recognized it from several youtube videos of a "wormhole" UFO taken from Russia in 2006. The December 9th UFO was recorded and seen from Norway. It had all the indications of a Russian rocket launch. Joel Carpenter had e-mailed a group of people about the video and one of the responses included a Notice to Mariners message warning about a Russian submarine launch of a Bulava missile. Even though the Russian's denied it was one of theirs in some media reports, they later confirmed the launch and the missile failed in flight. James Oberg would follow-up with another email indicating the Russians created another UFO a day later when a Topol rocket launched from 'Kapustin Yar' was recorded from several locations.

It did not take long for conspiracy minded UFOlogists to pick up on this one. Alfred Lambremont Webre suggests that there are other valid "scientifically based alternative explanations" to the simple missile malfunction explanation.These "explanations" include ET interfering with the missile launch, a HAARP demonstration, A "project blue beam mass psychological conditioner", a wormhole opened up by the LHC, or ETs!!!! Who are these "scientists" offering these "alternative explanations"? Apparently, they are David Wilcock and Richard Hoagland. A new age guru and a Mars face fanatic does not make them "scientifically based explanations". Maybe Robert Hastings can write another book about how the UFOs shot this missile down. Meanwhile, the rest of us know this was a simple missile malfunction with an earthly explanation.

Probably the most interesting blog/website I was made aware of, was the The Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) Observations 2009 reporting scheme. It is the idea of Philippe Ailleris, who has an interest in astronomy as well as UFOs. I think the title needs to be fixed as the use of the word "scheme" seems to have some sinister interpretation (like the infamous "trick" memo by Dr. Low in the Condon study). It is probably something lost in translation as Phillipe appears to be French. Also, Phillipe seems to have changed NARCAP's definition of UAP. UAP is defined by NARCAP as "aerial phenomena" but Phillipe refers to it as "aerospace phenoma". I guess using the word "space" gives the indicator of something "extraterrestrial".

Mr. Ailleris decided to piggyback his idea with the International Year of Astronomy. His goal appears to be to inspire astronomers to make UFO reports to his website. I find it odd that his report form is not totally geared towards astronomers. Some of the issues I had with it were:

1. The "Personal information" section asked if they are amateur astronomers. It only asks for "how long" and what "astronomical association" to which they belong. They do not ask for degree of experience (i.e. novice, beginner, intermediate, advanced). This can often be important in evaluation of the reporters familiarity with the night sky. It also asks about other UAP sightings the witness may have had in the past. I don't think this is overly relevant to the one sighting. If the witness wants to file a separate report for another event, they certainly can do so.

2. In the "observation" section, some of the information is inadequate. Instead of asking for an azimuth, it asks for direction. It also asks the estimate the distance to the UAP, which is a mistake common in many UFO reports. Making an estimate of distance for an object that is an unknown quantity usually results in inaccurate estimates. On a positive note, it does ask to estimate the angle of elevation and not altitude/height estimates. I believe a better question for astronomers would be to plot the UFOs position against the constellations, the way one would plot a meteor or satellite. Not only can the azimuth and elevation angles be computed more accurately (assuming the date and time are correct) but it will give a cue on the level of expertise of the observer. Experienced observers would have no difficulty with this task. A novice or casual sky watcher would probably be unable to do this.

3. When describing the "physical characteristics", it asks for "apparent size" and not "angular size". Apparent size is just as poor an estimate as distance. Angular size is actual data that can be evaluated. It also asks to estimate speed of the object (enticing an earthly measurement). He should ask for "angular speed".

4. Probably the biggest red flag I saw was when the form asks the observer to assess the sighting and assign probabilities of what it could have been. One of these includes "Some technological device not of terrestrial origin". A report form should be a "just the facts" kind of questionnaire and not ask for the observer to assign a conclusion. It encourages speculation and biasing of the observations.

I commend Mr. Ailleris for his effort but I dislike the hidden cues in his form. Most experienced astronomers do not normally bother to report UFOs. If they see something odd, they will probably attempt to do a little research on their own. I have seen astronomy forums resolve mystery objects in the past and the vast amount of resources available on the internet can usually identify most UFOs (ex: the astronomer UFO last issue that was probably a NASA research balloon). If Phillipe does receive any astronomer UFO reports, I hope he publishes them in raw form for others to examine the information. I, for one, would be interested to read such reports.

On another note, Mr. Ailleris also has a blog, which discusses astronomer UFO reports. It included the solar eclipse UFO reportedly seen by the Purple mountain observatory in China. This was discussed

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

in the last issue of SUNlite. The director stated there was no UFO but what they had observed were bright areas of the Corona near the sun's limb that deserved further study. When it comes to UFOs reported by astronomers, UFO proponents tend to only present one side of the story. I am sure Phillipe probably was unaware of the follow up story but one needs to learn to dig a little deeper on these things.

Billy Cox had an interesting news item about Steve Bassett and his "X" conferences. Steve Bassett has been running up quite the tab with his little "Exopolitics" show. He appears to be in the red by at least $16,000 and the collectors are coming after him. As a result, he is flat broke and can't run his little dog and pony show anymore. However, his website says they are going to have another X-conference in April 2010. Apparently, running "X-PPAC" is not like running a real business. Otherwise, he would put such costly endeavors on hold until he had paid his bills.

Bassett is also complaining through Cox that he does not get enough large donations! According to Cox, SETI gets $25 million for their telescopes but Bassett receives nothing. What is missed by Bassett/Cox is that SETI is run by some competent professionals, who do not waste their money on "dog and pony shows" that accomplish nothing more than get Bassett's face in the news. It is not research and never was. Additionally, Bassett's current track record of wasting money is not going to further impress any donors. Why would I want to donate a single penny to a guy who has shown that he can't even balance his books?

Bassett's failed little enterprise is his own fault and its disappearance will not be mourned on these pages.

And the beat goes on.....

The Roswell corner

Foster Ranch off limits to hide evidence?

There is not much going on with Roswell except Mr. Bragalia keeps coming up with all sorts of stories to link to Roswell. There is nothing new with his latest "revelations". He seems to imply there is a cover-up in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Apparently, the BLM did not want any development occurring on the Foster Ranch area. This is probably not that big a deal and I would not be surprised if other land was under similar restrictions.

What Bragalia seems to ignore is that UFOlogists and the SCI-FI channel performed two scientific "digs" at the crash site identified by Bill Brazel. The result was that nothing "alien" was ever discovered. The BLM did not seem to stand in the way then and probably would not stand in the way of any examination of the land. Others have walked/surveyed the area with no luck as well. Aerial photographs taken of the area from 1946 and 1954 revealed no noticeable changes that would have been left by a huge gouge and massive military involvement (i.e. large tractor trailers, trucks, etc). So where is the actual evidence of the crash?

Those who think the Army was able to sanitize the site and remove any trace from aerial photographs, should talk to Peter Merlin. He has been able to identify a classified SR-71 crash site that was supposedly sanitized using photographs taken by the US Geological Survey (USGS) five years after the crash. The idea that the record of such a massive operation described could be physically wiped clean is just unrealistic.

It wouldn't hold any air

Those were the words of Jesse Marcel Sr. when describing some of the debris he discovered at the Foster ranch. Karl Pflock suggested he was describing the paper parachutes that may have been used on the NYU flight. It seemed reasonable explanation and I pretty much figured this was the case.

However, this last summer, I conducted a little experiment with neoprene balloon materials. I could not go to New Mexico for this, but I decided to try anyway by placing my balloon materials on some wood and exposed it for about a month. Unfortunately, the NH weather this past summer was rather wet and sun was hard to come by. Still, I was surprised to see what I got after a month or so.

I expected to see blackened balloon material but the material was only discolored. It had a brownish tint to it but nothing blackened the way I expected. I suspect if the weather had been sunnier and hotter, the results would have been somewhat different. I also am not sure if my neoprene weather balloon (purchased from Edmund Scientific company) was the same type used back in 1947. Many factors could have prevented the blackened features that Professor Moore used to demonstrate. However, there was a characteristic that I did not expect.

The neoprene was no longer elastic. It was sort of had a cloth or paper feel to it and it ripped easily when I attempted to stretch it. If I were told this material came from a balloon, I would have doubted it. It just could not expand in any way and did not feel like a balloon.

Does this explain what Marcel was describing? Marcel described that he could blow air through it and that it looked like metallic cloth. The material I have does not exactly match this description but it did have the characteristic that "It wouldn't hold any air".

Oklahoma astronomer UFO sighting update

Thanks to Dave Trembley, I was able to obtain the data from last October's research balloon that sparked a "reliable" UFO report by some amateur astronomers south of Tulsa. I addressed the case last month but lacked any hard data other than the ground plot posted by NASA and the time of the flight termination. Now I have more data that confirms what I deduced previously and wanted to share it with my readers.

The key time frame of the balloon's flight was between 1845 and 1945 CDT (2345-0045Z), when the observations were made:

Time	Long	Lat	Alt	Speed	Heading
1844	102.57	34.16	127381	7	111
1849	102.56	34.16	126807	8	56
1854	102.55	34.17	126319	11	34
1859	102.53	34.19	125724	16	28
1905	102.52	34.21	125108	14	22
1910	102.51	34.23	124236	14	36
1915	102.50	34.24	123198	15	13
1920	102.49	34.27	122893	19	358
1925	102.50	34.29	122317	15	331
1930	102.53	34.29	118234	21	201
1935	102.50	34.30	63345	38	162
1940	102.46	34.28	49106	17	128
1945	102.41	34.24	38506	51	140

The data reveals several things that mirror what the witness stated. One is that during a bulk of the observation time, the balloon was heading in a NNE direction at a slow pace. To an observer 400 miles away, it would not move significantly since it would be moving towards the observer and slightly northward. It would appear almost stationary. Between 1930-1935 speed and descent rate rapidly increased. The witness told me this happened, *"sometime around I'd estimate 1945"*. Based on this statement, I think a ten to fifteen minute difference is not that significant an error.

This all confirms my suspicions about the research balloon being the source for this UFO report. It was the correct altitude at the time of observation and the correct direction. I am sure UFO proponents will continue to present this as a good astronomer UFO report but don't let them fool you. It was just another event misidentified as something exotic by a person interested in seeing UFOs.

UK shuts down UFO hotline

The United Kingdom's Ministry of defense (MOD) has been running a UFO hotline to collect UFO reports for fifty years. After looking at all the reports they have gathered, they came to the same conclusion the USAF had forty years ago! That being, there are no UFOs that have been shown to be a threat to national security.

One would think that the response by UFO groups would have been mild. However, the response was something akin to the UK government taking away a health care benefit. Nick Pope and others seemed distressed that the UFO hotline was shutdown. Pope referred to it as being a *"sad day for science"*. For some reason he felt that the MOD was collecting valuable data. However, if you asked any scientists independent of the UFO crowd, I bet most would state it was a waste of time. Anybody who watched the David Clarke videos about the released files, will realize that this is all a bunch of nonsense. No good data was being collected that could be used scientifically and, as stated (and contrary to what is being claimed by UFO proponents), nothing has ever actually threatened the defense of the UK.

Nick Pope even implied the closing of this hotline would mean that people and pilots would now be less observant, leaving their country open to terrorism. Pope is wildly exaggerating and it is highly unlikely that any UFO reports made on a hotline would have prevented an imminent terrorist action. I think the MOD would have other lines open for this sort of report. As we know from SUNlite volume 1, No. 3, Pope's role at the MOD has been highly exaggerated and he continues to milk that cow for all it is worth. His jabbering is nothing more than a selfish effort to put himself in the news again.

The truth is that the MOD was probably tired of dealing with the wild stories they had to listen to over the years. Like the USAF, they realized it was a waste of time and resources. Personnel were busy chasing down "will of the wisps" instead of conducting actual work beneficial to the service. If shutting down the hotline allows just one more person to concentrate on terrorist/defense issues, it is a gain for the MOD and the people of the UK. That is what is important, isn't it?

Old UFO reports still make good headlines

The UFO examiner recently brought up an old UFO case that seemed mysterious and caught my eye for several reasons. It had multiple witnesses independent of each other and it appeared to be reasonably documented. After reading it, I wondered if there was a possible explanation.

According to the UFO report, police officer Manuel Amparano made his report on May 13, 1978 at 3:32 AM from Kerman, California. He stated that he saw a bright red object to the south that moved rapidly towards the southeast when he shined his light at it. The duration of the event was four to five minutes. The police officer apparently suffered from severe sunburn at the time. Others also reported seeing something similar that morning. Unfortunately, nobody bothered to gather pertinent data (such as azimuth, angles of elevation, and apparent angular size) as typical in UFO reports.

My first thought was it might be a rocket launch from Vandenberg AFB roughly 150 miles to the SSW of Kerman. I had seen rocket launches from Cape Canaveral from about the same distance when I was growing up in Jacksonville. The often appeared reddish, illuminated that area of the sky, and rapidly vanished after stage separation. So I checked the Vandenberg launch history and was surprised to discover that at 3:34 AM PDT (10:34 GMT) on May 13, 1978, NAVSTAR 2 was launched aboard an Atlas rocket from Vandenberg! Didn't anybody check this out? The orbital inclination was 63.6 degrees indicating a launch towards the south or SSE. It would appear as a bright red orb that was low in the SSW that would slowly rise and move towards the SE until it "vanished". Is it a coincidence the UFO sighting happened at the same approximate time and direction or is it possible that this is the solution to this UFO report?

I am certain the argument will be that this is not what the police officer saw because he had a sunburn on his body after the event. However, was the sunburn really due to the UFO or did he happen to get the burn from some other unrelated event? In my opinion, the solution to this mystery is most likely the NAVSTAR2 launch.

Don't set the snooze alarm for the Kecksburg Crash

Robert Young

Recently pro-UFO writer Leslie Kean wrote an article reciting what she claims are important details surrounding the Kecksburg UFO incident. This is the saucer crash tale from western Pennsylvania which sprang up years later after a December 9, 1965 brilliant meteor fireball visible from 10 states and Ontario. Popularized by "Unsolved Mysteries" and other TV shows during the 1990s, some saucer believers seem to be increasingly desperate to keep the story going. Like many crash stories, each whiff of publicity has the chance of bringing some new "witness" into the daylight to keep the fun alive. When asked for the most important UFO incidents of all time in a survey of well-known UFOlogists a couple years ago, Kecksburg no longer made the cut. So, almost every year as the anniversary of the event approaches the tiny handful of UFOlogists who still pay attention to the event throw out another snare. In her latest piece, Kean just regurgitates the same old stuff while neglecting to mention key aspects of the incident which point to a prosaic explanation. She didn't even mention that astronomers soon after the event analyzed photographs of the fireball's cloud train and determined that it was a meteor and even determined a possible orbital path out to the asteroid belt, source of many bright rocky fireballs.

Investigators managed to locate several former members of the USAF 662 Radar Squadron, which sent three men from a nearby radar site near the Pittsburgh airport. These airmen thus came from the closest Air Force "base", which is what was prescribed for UFO reports in Air Force Regulation 200-2. Kean called attention to the fact that one mentioned a written report, which was not in the Blue Book file of the incident, but neglected to tell readers that the witness said they didn't find anything, which matches written notes of a phone report contained in the file.

Instead, Leslie Kean tries to make it sound like she has found conflicting stories from the former USAF personnel, because one said three men were involved and another thought it was four. For a memory that's 44 years old, this doesn't register more than a 1 or 2 on my 10-point Weird Stuff-o-Meter, how about you?

The real scientific evidence regarding Kecksburg. One of the photographs of the debris trail left behind used to deduce the meteor's actual path, which was not towards Kecksburg!

In another "bait and switch" investigative tidbit, she mentions the deceased news director of a local radio station, but never reveals that in a special radio report broadcast the week following the incident this newsman reported that the only military personnel that he saw that night at the site were in the back seat of a State Police car. This, too, fully supports the Blue Book record and the official version.

Of course, the "acorn" shaped UFO was mentioned. The UFOlogists' version of the crash never mentions anymore that for the first ten years the claimed eyewitnesses who reported seeing the object, itself, described it as like a 17-foot long rocket shape. Hey, what did they know? Rockets always look like rockets after they endure flaming reentry and hard landing, don't they?

I've been following this story for about 20 years, now, and I think I can make a firm prediction. Next fall there will be yet another attempt to revive the Kecksburg UFO crash tale. Go to Robert Sheaffer's webpage for accurate details on the old-solved mystery of the Dec. 9, 1965 meteor.

If you asked me, I would say that Leslie Kean and the Sci-Fi channel have accomplished absolutely nothing in their investigation into the Kecksburg story. We are told that hundreds of soldiers and their equipment were used to locate, cordon off, retrieve, and transport a large exotic object. However, the only thing Kean and her cohorts can produce is what has been known over the years. That being several airmen and an officer from the 662nd radar squadron were sent to investigate the event and found nothing. She has yet to identify any other units involved. The obvious reason for this is because there were no other units involved.

Additionally, Kean has yet to demonstrate that the scientific investigation done in 1965 is wrong. Using David Rudiak's effort to do so is inadequate. In June of 2006, I pointed Dr. Von Del Chamberlain towards Rudiak's commentary on his work and asked if Rudiak contacted him. He responded:

No, Mr. Rudiak did not contact me. This is the first I have heard of his "analysis." The paper is a classic case of "proving" what one wants to believe and shows lack of understanding of the fireball event. There is simply NO question about this being a meteoric event. From start to finish it is a perfect example of one, including all the confusion regarding interpretation, especially at the boundaries of observation where the fireball appeared to go to or beyond the horizon. It was not just the photographs we used which confirmed the trajectory area and endpoint. We worked with many observers, going to the site where they made the observations to interview them. ALL the data came together -- fireball observations, sonic booms, etc. -- to confirm that the event was over SW Ontario and that the meteoric body was headed as we indicated in our paper.

Instead of evaluating the true evidence available, Leslie Kean chose to use NASA as a scapegoat. It is obvious that her effort was only to perpetuate the Kecksburg mystery.

I have presented my opinion and evaluation of the case at my website. Until UFOlogists find real facts that can be presented to confirm these stories, this case can be considered identified as a bright daylight fireball and some vivid imaginations.

Tim Printy

CAUTIONARY TALES: JUST HOW BAD MIGHT A UFO OBSERVATION BE?

Matthew Graeber

It seems many pro-UFOlogists tend to have some difficulty with believing how poor a UFO observation can be, not to mention how inflated, distorted and embellished that poor report may become as the story weaves its way through the sensational rumor-mills of Saucerdom, and becomes magically transformed into rock-solid 'Unidentified!'

Perhaps, as I have recently learned such UFOOLogy stems from a passionate rejection of western science and the intellectual contributions of men like Thomas Huxley. Or, this kind of behavior may be rooted in what Karl Pflock identified as "The UFOlogist's will to believe."

I shall offer but, a few case examples of how bad a UFO report can be in this brief article, with the hopes that no one will be offended by the obvious misperceptions and misinterpretations the witnesses have made regarding their strange, sudden and shocking UFO experiences.

I will close this article with a 'belly-laugh' true story of the attempts of one relatively new saucer crash expert who has 'borrowed' and embellished a very old and well-known UFO hoax to advance his own promotional agenda and rise to stardom in contemporary Saucerdom! These Cautionary Tales are dedicated to the memories of my dear friends, Karl T. Pflock, Robert G. Todd, Philip J. Klass, UFORIC's Gordon Myers and APRO/UFORIC researcher Mike McClellan who wrote a very persuasive article debunking the Aztec UFO crash claims of the charlatan, Professor Robert Spencer Car back in the early seventies.

SAMPLING THE REPORTS

Bristol/Levitown, Pa, back in the mid-seventies: Police were dispatched in the pouring rain on a dark windy night in response to a frantic call from a woman who had been terrorized and chased from a parking lot into her apartment building by a low-flying, frightfully noisy UFO! Others in the apartment building had heard and seen the fleeting, dark saucer too. They told officers "It seemed to be circling the building at very low altitude!"

Two police cruisers arrived on the scene with their lights flashing in urgency. Cops hurried curious residents out of danger. Then, they took up defensive positions behind their vehicle's opened doors with pistols drawn and pointed skyward, as the strange triangular craft dove at them and quickly vanished into the darkness…. its loud fluttering sound fading in the howling wind and pouring rain.

I had been notified by a police source (Because of earlier UFO reports in the township I had investigated), and arrived on the scene a bit later. By that time, it was learned the dark triangular UFO was actually a youngster's Batman kite with its tether tangled in a rooftop TV antenna. It was made of black plastic (Like that of a lawn and leaf disposal bag), and its loud fluttering sound was produced as the wind flowed from its flexible trailing edges.

In another instance, a MUFON UFO field investigator phoned about a UFO he had spotted while driving to work early one morning. He had observed the object with a dark band along its middle (on the horizontal axis of the craft) He observed the object again the following day, it was a 'MetLife blimp' with a blue stripe on its side (Flying above a TV covered golf tournament). On the first morning it was quite hazy and the details of the blimp were not distinct to the unaided eye.

Back in the 70's my wife (Grace) received a call from her younger sister whose husband was stationed in San Diego, California. She told my wife of a huge "Torpedo-like silvery UFO" which was flying along the coast. She said it was enormous, not noisy like the jets she often saw and small power and sailboats in the water were slipping in and out of the colossal UFO's shadow as it slowly moved along.

Later that evening my brother-in-law phoned and embarrassingly told me his wife had mistaken the Goodyear Blimp for a silvery-mother ship. He was absolutely astonished his wife did not know such blimps existed. She had never heard of the Hindenburg disaster, Zeppelins or, the Akron blimp of sad memory. So, here we may be confronted a generational gap of common knowledge and complete ignorance of aeronautical history!?

Another UFO field investigator who is a MUFPON leader in Pennsylvania, phoned with a report by a lady living on a farm. She had reported a UFO which appeared to be an airplane flying backwards! The plane was actually an experimental privately-owned aircraft from a nearby air facility, NOT a flying saucer in disguise!

Although, the objects mentioned above were first perceived and reacted to by witnesses, UFO investigators and Police personnel as UFOs (i.e., Assumed alien spacecraft). These overly-zealous and errant reactions were based entirely on scant observational data/clarity and ignorance of all the other possible tell-tale identity indicators involved in the incidents. In short, a UFO sighting may appear strange and unidentifiable to those who apply A KNEE-JERK REACTION TO THEIR FAULTY OBSERVATIONS AND PREDISPOSITION ABOUT UFOs AS VISITING ALIEN SPACECRAFT.

AZTECIAN UFOOLOGY!

In another free-fall of non-logic example. One saucer crash expert currently on the scene is spreading his 'New Age Gospel of nonsense' about a saucer crash that 'allegedly' took place fifty-one years ago in the desert near Aztec, New Mexico. Unfortunately, two criminal con men were tried a convicted for this same hokum during the early fifties, using a very similar UFO crash yarn which was merely the prelude to bulking investors out of money.

But, now the old dusty hoax has been revisited and with a soon to be published book ignoring all the court records and the verdict. The long-dead case has been 'Resuscitated' for a new generation of unsuspecting UFO enthusiasts and believers. There are of course, little problems one must overlook at times, obvious excesses and contradictions which tend to

take the old tale to new heights of absurdity:

1. The expert claims someone at the crash site, pressed a button inside the craft (Presumably, with a stick shoved through the broken glass of one of the craft's portholes) Then, the 80 foot in diameter craft suddenly fell apart in sections… Something like a gigantic transformer toy, I guess!?

2. This remarkable transformational feat, may help us grasp how an 80 foot in diameter alien spacecraft may have been loaded upon 8 foot wide flat-bed truck and spirited away from the scene by (You guessed it!) The super-secretive and cover up skilled specialists of the U.S. military.

3. Of course, there are a whole passel of newly discovered witnesses to the crash. Although some may think it a wee bit unusual so many folks just happened to be in that particular part of the lonely desert when the ill-fated alien saucer plummeted to Earth. One must realize these folks have kept silent for over fifty years, waiting for just the right opportunity to be part of this historically significant book on the mythical cover up, despite this publication not being the first attempt to resurrect the yarn, while also over-looking the fact that Mike McClellan had found NO eyewitnesses to the event during his investigation back in the early seventies.

4. Then, we are informed a work crew of El Passo Oil and Gas company employees came upon the downed saucer after being dispatched to the scene of a small brush fire near a company drip tank. The problem is old-timers who lived in the area all their lives say oil and gas company tanks and lines were not yet existent in the alleged crash sire area before 1960. So, there may be a bit of a time line problem with the new version of the 1948 story? (This bit of information was provided by a MUFON state director's report. He had interviewed Aztec old-timers back in the 1990's)

5. Back in the 1940's a military pilot had emergency landed a P-38 lightning fighter plane at a property near the 'alleged' crash site. A group of mechanics came a few days later, disassembled some of the aircraft and loaded it upon a big truck before driving away. A local newspaper owner who was something of a colorful character, well-known for his leg-pulling nature may have adapted the factual story into a saucer crash yarn ? (At least, one of the old-times suggests that possibility), and others in the area spoke of the newsman's chronic yarn-spinning too! He had even once published a news story about his being taken aboard a space ship in the desert by little saucer men, and visited with ranch-hands who relished his stories as they gathered in barns and bunkhouses.

I'm afraid there is very little anyone can do to divert the flood of saucer hokum. But "SUNlite" is an online life preserver in the turbulent waters of UFOOLOGY for those who would embrace its intellectual wisdom.

Oh yes 'UFOOLogy' is a rather pithy (Extra vowel) word I coined about fifteen years ago, it may be defined as the consensus-powered corruption of the scientific method, a lack of applied prudence, and the careless abandon of common sense reasoning skills in favor of purely emotional anecdotal accounts. In the old days out west, it was simply known as "Spoofing" young fellers and gullible easterners.

JOYOUS NANOSH TO ONE AND ALL

'Twas the night before Nanosh and all through the ship, not a hybrid was stirring, not even a blip.

The stun guns were hung by the ejection pod's door, and six photon torpedoes lie stacked on the floor.

When out on the ship's rim there arose such a clatter, I thought in the instant we'd struck anti-matter.

But, the word quickly spread that "Nanosh" had arrived, and we feasted on tribbles both, sauted and fried.

Oh what a joyous and festive event, we danced with Abductees 'til the evening was spent.

Yes, Nanosh had come, and we all felt the glee, except for some Hybrid that paused to go wee.

So, beam up to see us on Nanosh next year, we'll nibble on tribbles, and drink lots o' beer...and we'll feast, and we'll feast 'til your Earth belly pops, just remember rule one..bring a Hybrid a pot!

About NANOSH

Dear Saucer-heads, Saucerettes or Saucer Cross-Dressers, (please take your pick).I just thought I'd send you these Holiday Greetings, while also wishing you and yours a heart felt and Joyous Nanosh.

-Matt

Almiro Barauna's many hoaxes

Kentaro Mori

UM DISCO VOADOR
ESTÊVE EM MINHA CASA...
COMO SE FAZ UMA AERONAVE MARCIANA ... O QUE HA DE VERDADE, E DE INVERDADE SOBRE OS COS VOADORES ... TRUQUES FOTOGRAFICOS QUE PODEM SERVIR DE EXPLORAÇAO E DIVERTIMENTO.
TEXTO DE VINICIUS LIMA
FOTOS DE ALMIRO BARAUNA
O MUNDO ILUSTRADO

Almiro Baraúna was a trickster. It has been known for many years that he created a series of trick photos of a flying saucer published on the "Mundo Ilustrado" magazine in 1954. Recently, thanks to the work of historian Rodolpho Gauthier, we have finally made this article widely available.

"[Despite] many photos of the 'saucers' having been made, these cannot be taken as proof at all since there at my house we can also make flying saucers, with chips from the Carioca fleet. To do so, you just have to know how to use a photographic camera, as the readers may learn through the photos on this article", wrote Vinicius Lima who then presented the photos tricked by Baraúna along with explanations as to how they were created.

Which means this was not exactly a hoax, that is, the photos were clearly presented as the trickery they were. Baraúna could be even seen as a serious, concerned photographer. He could, had he not deliberately hoaxed before.

"Some time ago, he was trying to make a report about a ship sunken centuries ago, also using a fraud. With the camera lens over a glass, placed at the bottom of a can, Baraúna photographed a miniature ship, […] prepared by him, giving the impression it was a ship sunken many years ago", informed the newspaper Diário de Notícias on Feb 22, 1958.

It was not the only newspaper to report on his hoaxes. "A newspaper from Rio de Janeiro published a long series of news reports about the extraordinary finding of a treasure in Espirito Santo. The photo showed an old chest and a skull. Regarding this report, Mr. Joaquim Simões revealed that the photos were actually taken in Saco de São Francisco from Niterói [near Baraúna's house].

The objects that composed the treasure were a skull borrowed from the local Medicine School and an old chest, still in his possession. This material, that [Simões] assumed were to be used in artistic photos and not in hoaxed news, were taken to Saco de São Francisco by himself and Baraúna. The work was sold to the newspaper without his knowledge", Jornal do Brasil confirmed in the same day edition, Feb 22. You can see these hoaxed photos, including one of Baraúna along with the fake treasure chest, again courtesy of Rodolpho Gauthier.

The next day, Jornal do Brasil interviewed a group of photographers from Niterói "who can create anything, from flying saucers, sputniks and even black ghosts coming inside newsrooms in broad daylight".

Besides Simões, they mentioned Valter Quota, Carlos Ruas, brothers Delio and João Limoeiro, Lívio Campos and even Geraldo, from the Police Technical Institute. Simões claims Baraúna was part of this photo trickery bunch, and that he was not the only one there that doubted Baraúna's allegedly real flying saucer photos.

"Geraldo created one better than that", said João Limoeiro. When asked about it, though, Geraldo replied, "I assure you, [Baraúna's] one is better".

Given that his Mundo Ilustrado trick involved a flying saucer, it was sure to receive more attention, but Baraúna's hoax

of a treasure chest complete with a skull is perhaps more relevant because it involves deliberate deception. The hoaxed photos were presented as authentic, and Baraúna even denied having hoaxed them.

"Can you imagine? Even that story about a treasure I photographed in Espirito Santo they claim it was a hoax", he told the very same Jornal do Brasil, which published this statement in the same news report about the Niterói photo trickery bunch. As we emphasize, the treasure chest was a hoax that Baraúna photographed near his house in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro.

So, Almiro Baraúna hoaxed, and even when denounced, denied the hoax.But he eventually admitted the hoaxing of the treasure chest. It only took him 39 years.

In a recorded interview with Marco Petit conducted in 1997, he claims a "frustrated photographer" whom he "helped a lot", lending a lot of material "which he never returned" was probably envious about his fame and brought up the subject of the treasure chest to the press. He's certainly referring to Joaquim Simões.

Baraúna then explains that he and Ubiratan Fernandes from Cruzeiro magazine, Vanderlei and another friend made a trick to fool Tribuna da Imprensa into publishing a hoax. And they published it.

"Indeed, that was a hoax", Baraúna finally admitted. "But one thing had nothing to do with the other", he told Petit. The other, of course, is the Trindade Island UFO case. Baraúna passed away in July 20, 2000, without ever admitting that the Trindade UFO photos were hoaxed.

His treasure chest hoax was already mentioned both by Menzel and the US Navy Attaché in Rio's report shortly after the incident as evidence questioning the credibility of Trindade's photos. The relevance of Baraúna's 1997 quick comment that it was indeed a trick he played was apparently not recognized, we hope that with publication of the photos and Barauna's denial and contradiction, thanks to the efforts of fellow researcher Rodrigo Visoni and the collaboration of Gauthier, among many others, this may change.

What about the photos?

Back in 2003, I became aware of Kentaro Mori's work on the Trindade case as he revealed that he had acquired high-resolution scans of the photographs. Prior to this, the photographs existed as just some images in books that prevented careful examination. Various UFO proponents proclaimed them some of the greatest photographic evidence for UFOs ever to exist. On the other hand, Dr. Menzel declared the photographs a hoax based on the photographer's background.

In 2004, the Trindade images were being circulated by many UFO proponents. Brad Sparks implied that he had established an International Trindade Research Project to verify their authenticity. He added that a report was to be completed sometime in 2004 or 2005. I am unaware of any results ever being published other than Martin Shough's website, which seems to be his own effort. About this time, some form of news inspired Jerome Clark to tell John Rimmer that new evidence was going to reveal the Trindade case as a genuine event. This "new evidence" never surfaced. Like the promised report, the "new evidence" seems to have vanished or was found not to be so convincing.

Meanwhile, Kentaro shared the high resolution images he received from Claudeir Covo and Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos with others, including myself. Being of the opinion that they were probably hoaxes, I began to wonder how Barauna could have accomplished such a feat. The idea they could be double exposures did not sit well with me simply because the UFO's image was more dense than the background. With this in mind, I attempted to look at other methods being used by photographers at the time. I found some rather interesting trick photographs but none gave the methodology. I assumed that most were done in the darkroom during the printing process.

According to the Barauna story, the negatives were examined right after development on the ship and the UFO was present on the negative. If this were true, it was unlikely that the UFO was added in the printing process. As a result, I figured the UFO had to be photographed at the same time as the image of the island. My first thought was a pane of glass was placed in front of the camera. However, that did not make sense. Even at very high depth of fields, the glass would have to be far away and must be large so the edges would not be visible. For this to happen without anybody noticing, would seem unlikely. This led me to another scenario.

This scenario involved the UFO image being placed internally on the film plane through the use of a mask in front of the film. This mask could have been inserted between photographs using a dark bag or setup internally with the roll of film. In the first case, it would have been a time consuming operation to get the four photographs. The second case could be done rapidly but involved setting up the film prior to the photographs being taken. Brad Sparks contended that this mask would result in the resolution of the photograph being degraded. One must remember that Barauna was an accomplished photographer and may have found a way to get past this problem with clear glass or treated film that cleared most of the grain in the mask.

I want to make it clear that I am not of the opinion that this was the method used and I am only suggesting it as a possibility. One can not ignore the idea that Barauna may have found a way to create such a hoax image. The only thing standing in his way was the time required to stage the hoax in a way that would make it appear credible.

Eric Maillot noted back in 2004 that the cloud formations did not appear to be the same in the photographs. Martin Shough responded that there were patterns, which indicated a time passage of several minutes. Brad Sparks explained that he could see "wave patterns" in the pictures. His computed time period for the photographs was one to three minutes! These time periods by Shough and Sparks contradict the witness testimony, which states the time period was less than 30 seconds. Barauna even gave a 14-second time frame after performing tests with his camera. All of this indicated the story surrounding the photographs should be questioned and evaluated. Kentaro Mori hopes to present new evidence in the future and I look forward to his upcoming revelations about the Trindade case. - Tim Printy

L O O K U P I N T H E S K Y !

the Stan Romanek Saga

By Baxter

Aliens Among Us!

How Much?

That little alien in the window is stirring all kinds of questions. The biggest one we have is how much is Stan going to be making off of it? Although the word has changed much over the years, the word now is that he sold his story to the History Channel. At this time, we have been unable to confirm this with the History Channel.

Stan Romanek presents himself as the typical "every man." He had his typical job in his typical town with his typical family. There was certainly no reason to believe that this Joe Sixpack would end up as national news.

It is exactly this image that has so many of us believing his story. He comes across as so sincere. Why would all these mean people be picking on him and calling him a fraud?

Let's look, shall we? What follows was on Stan's original "official" webite.

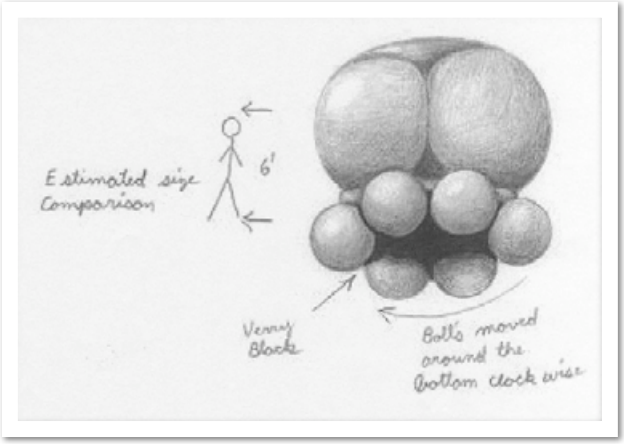
December 27, 2000
The first UFO seen by Stan was in the daytime at the location of Alameda and Jewel in west Denver (Lakewood). When first observed, (paraphrased here) "it was about 50 feet from Stan's car, directly above the level of power lines along the side of the road. It was keeping pace, just ahead of my moving car at about 40 miles per hour and in the air at a slight angle forward. The approximate size was that of a minivan. I slowed then stopped my car, as did other cars and their drivers observing this object. After a few moments, the object

instantly "popped" to a higher height several hundred feet up, causing an intense "sonic boom" that was felt on my clothes and body. Other than this sonic "pop", the object made absolutely no sound. At this point the camera was ready to film, and the video was taken."

I remember very clearly watching the video as it was aired on Denver's local Fox newscast around that time. I was a UFO investigator at the time, and I was very skeptical of the video.

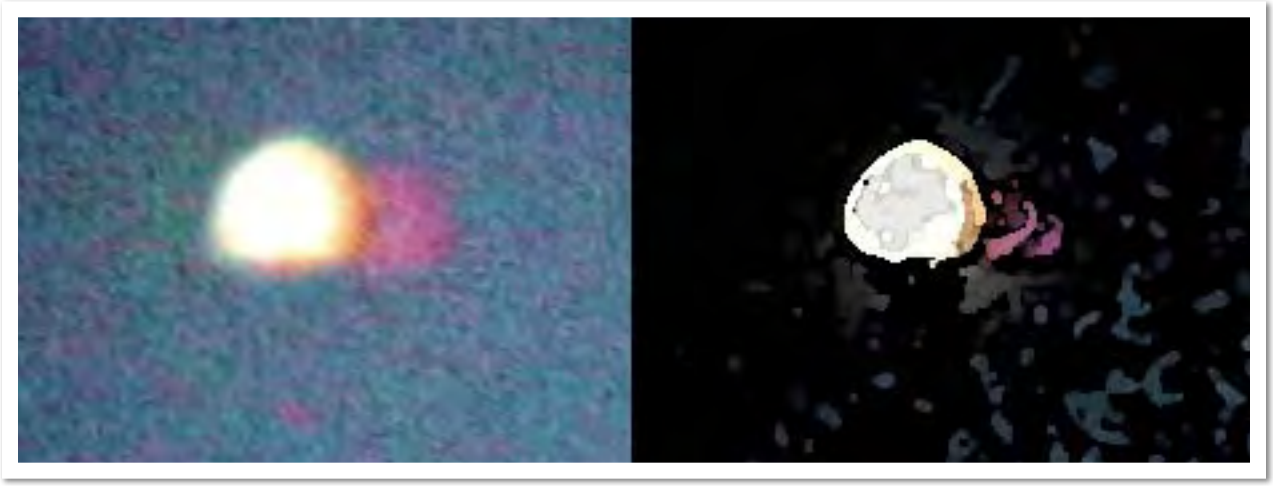
It was very blurry and shaky (as all UFO videos seem to be...) and not very convincing. The auto-focus of the camera was unable to lock onto the object and, therefore, it was distorted. When this happens, the resulting image looks nothing like the real object. Yet, Stan decided that the blurry images were in fact exactly how the objects looked. Below you see his rendition.

These drawings are a stretch, to put it lightly, from what the object actually looked like. I will go ahead right now and stake my life on it.



I, too, went out and filmed a strange object in the sky. Mine was from a different angle than Stan's so the lights were featured more. My auto-focus was also unable to capture the object clearly. Pictured below is what I captured.

As you can see from the still photo from the video and the illustration next to it, I captured an alien craft on film. It seems to be organic in nature and was propelled with some kind of red spiraling plasma. An "Orbmobile," if you will.



Oh, an airplane...

Just so you know, on film, the more light is blurred, the more round it appears. Hence, orbs. Stan's first UFO on film is an "Orb cluster." Hmmm...

Now, to further back up Stan's story, there were plenty of eye witnesses to these next few sightings. Mostly, they were family, people Stan already knew, and people actively involved in the UFO community that Stan professed to ridicule at the time.

Let me make sure, at this point in the article, that you realize that this in not a balanced newsworthy article. It is written from my perspective with my opinions. And my opinion is that a lot of "cool-aid" was being passed around. What I mean, dear reader, is that Stan has a way of convincing people of what they just saw. "Look at that UFO! Did you just see that UFO? Did you see its red lights? Its organic nature?"

When the reporter asks what they saw, what do you think they might say?

There were many other sightings over the next year or so. The interesting thing is that the UFOs kept changing. There was no consistency in the reports so the reports didn't support each other.

Next, we'll talk about the mysterious mathematical equations that he started writing.

The current statement on Stan's website reads:

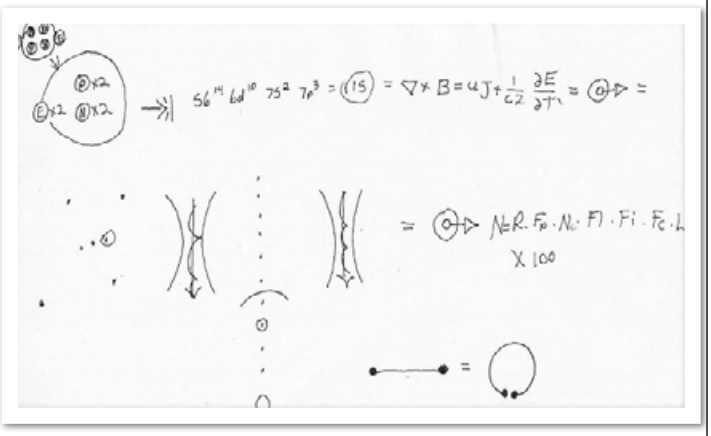
Stan Romanek suffers from Dyslexia and has been affected by this learning disability all of his life. Because of this, Stan's math competency is at a 4th grade level and he has no idea what any of these equations or drawings mean. Hoping that the equations might in some way be of benefit and in an effort to find their meaning, Stan requested that all of the equations be openly shared.

This is very interesting since he claimed early on (on TV show "Proof Positive") that he has had his I.Q. tested at genius levels. There was no mention of Dyslexia then...

Now his first equation was revealed to him July 2002 while under hypnosis. There are multiple problems with the reliability of hypnosis but we won't go into that here.

Here is the first statement about the equation from his website:

Included in the equation is a formula depicting a helium atom bombarding element 115., Element 115 at the time did not exist. It was years later when element 115 would be experimented with.



Unfortunately for our hero, element 115 has been talked about since (at least) the mid eighties and was no secret among true UFO nuts. After all, it was one of the pieces of "alien" knowledge that Bob Lazar tried to use to prove his claims.

The next statement on this equation went a little something like this:

Also included in the equation is a depiction of our solar system represented by ten dots and a circle. It wouldn't be until years later that scientists would discover a tenth planet in our solar system and name it, "Xenia" or "Planet X".

Now, if this knowledge truly came from outer space, they would have known that two of those ten planets didn't qualify as planets after all. If they had qualified, many more objects would have also qualified creating a much longer list than ten. As it sits, we only have eight planets. Bummer. I miss Pluto. At least now we have "plutoids."

Finally, the website mentions Drake's Equation. This was an equation that surfaced in the early 60's and was used to estimate the number of extraterrestrial civilizations in the Universe. Stan, supposedly knowing nothing of this equation (again, known by the UFO community), puts it at the end of his equation and multiplies it by 100!

How is this proof of anything?

Now, how about all of these scientists that are analyzing Stan's evidence?

As we know, throughout history scientists rarely agree on anything that isn't proven. There are always different "camps" in the theoretical areas of science.

It seems all of Stan's scientists are from the same "camp."

Let's start with George Zeiler. He is the Deputy International Director of MUFON, the world's largest civilian UFO research organization. How impartial do you think he is?

Next comes Dr. Jack Kasher. Now, while Dr. Jack has some educational credentials, here is the important part: Dr. Kasher is a consultant, state (Nebraska) director, and central regional director for MUFON, and has spoken more than two hundred times on UFOs. Cool.

Well, how about Deborah Lindemann? Deborah has a private hypnotherapy practice, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Can you think of any time that hypnotherapy yielded bad, very bad, life destroying bad results? Might want to check into Satanic Ritual Abuse Syndrome...

Now, let's talk about Biophysicist William Levengood. Have any idea what he does with his education? He argues that crop circles are the real deal even though hoaxers have come forward to admit the hoax. Sigh.

Finally, we have Dr. Claude Swanson. Dr. Swanson is the most impressive of Stan's "scientists" but mired heavily in his own spin of the paranormal. He attempts to use physics to prove haunted houses and his results are questionable at best. He twists statistics to fit his hypothesis. He raises eyebrows but proves nothing.

Why aren't the truly great scientists of our time weighing in on this? Well, one did...

After seeing what "Stan's" scientists had to say, I was very curious what one of my heroes would have to say about these magical equations. Here is his reply:

"Hi, Baxter,

In fact, I did look at these equations. He could have cribbed them from just about anywhere... college texts, the web... even Wikipedia. They're no more proof that he's been in contact with aliens than his stories are. He has to show something NEW. Some fact we don't know. Not just rummage through the human attic and find a few things of which we're already aware.

Cheers,
Seth

Dr. Seth Shostak
Senior Astronomer
SETI Institute"

I couldn't have found a better voice for science and logic on this planet...

As a footnote, Dr. Frank Donald Drake (of Drake's Equation) is the founder of SETI. I think SETI's senior astronomer might be a bit familiar with analyzing this kind of thing...

Stan's aliens themselves have gone through drastic changes over the years.

Here is a recounting of his first encounter with them:

"Stan started to get a horrible headache in the back of his head. He decided to go to bed early to relieve it. He eventually did fall asleep, but he was awakened at 2:00 AM by a knock at the door. Stan remembers three "people" waiting for him in the hallway. As he approached them, he realized that they were not fully human."

Now, when you compare his drawing to the alien photos and film footage that he has shown at his

lectures, you see that these things have no resemblance to anything he has captured on film. The things he has captured on film look stunningly like the aliens we see in movies, tv, and in other popular culture.

Ok, so, when Stan awakened the next morning, these aliens had wounded him. They punctured him on the lower back and he had abrasions on his wrists.

He even went so far to be amazed that they healed THIS MUCH in just a few days!

Sorry, but that looks like pretty normal healing to me. I've seen those Neosporin commercials.

The next fun piece of convincing proof is how the wounds, even after healing, "fluoresced" under black light.

We thought it would be fun to take our own photo of this phenomena.

The one on the left is Stan's hand and the one on the right is mine. Amazing, isn't it?

Stan also went into his "implant" stories. One, he had in his hip, he dug out with a pocket knife in the presence of a physician. Um, no. a physician would not allow something like that to take place in his presence. An unsanitary knife? Unsafe conditions? Possible lawsuit? No.

Anyway, this implant was looked at under some electron microscope somewhere. It appeared to be a mineral with hairs growing out of it and microchips were scattered on its surface.

Stan's wife hid the implant in a location that even Stan was unaware of. It was in a vial in the back of a radio.

Well, the Government knew! They shot a focused beam of vibration (or something) and broke the implant into three pieces.

This is just a thought but bear with me...

What if the implant was something calcified in his leg? Under a microscope it might appear mineral after a few days of drying out. Salt is a common component of our insides and probably was present also. Salt is often a perfect cube under a microscope. These "microchips" were only viewed as being "perfectly square" and no circuitry was observed.

When something is removed from our bodies, it is normally kept in a liquid of some kind. After a time of drying out, doesn't it make sense that it would break apart all by itself?

Soon, the Government would start playing a larger role in all of this. Stan was warned to keep quiet about the aliens. He was even savagely beat up! He had to move somewhere safe... How about Colorado Springs! There's no military presence there!

You people have no idea how hard it is sometimes to type these "facts" with a straight face...

Is anyone with me when I say that if the government wants you to be quiet, they find a way to make you quiet?

Stan's solution to the dilemma is to go and give lectures about how mean the Government is and to sell books and video to his audiences. The Government won't get him then!

Now, at a lecture we attended, Stan did show us a few photos of the aliens. They were hysterical. There were several photos that were taken of a dark field behind his house. When the photos were lightened, however, they were full of aliens. The aliens just happened to look like a seven year old had discovered Photoshop. There were armies of aliens (bad stick figure aliens) in these photos that were approaching Stan's house. In some photos, they were spying on a family barbecue on the back deck. They would be peeking (looking NOTHING like a halloween mask or doll) from behind bushes. It was brilliant. The perfect plan to learn about Stan's barbecue sauce recipe... well worth traveling across the cosmos for.

The videos he showed at the lecture were... interesting.

In one, he was awakened by a red orb (laser pointer) floating above his bed. He went out into the living room, luckily with his video camera, and was startled by a two foot tall blue alien doll that slowly looked around the corner at him from the kitchen. The "doll" was stiff and had to be held at an angle to give the impression of looking from behind the doorway. Stan has recently stated that he will no longer be showing that video because it looks too "fake." Hmm. Go figure.

The other video, well, you know about the other video. Let me jump forward in time a little bit...

The last two days of May '08 were very crazy this year for me. On Thursday, Bryan, my paranormal partner in crime, called me and informed me that we were going to spend the evening recreating Stan Romanek's lousy alien evidence.

Why, you ask? Because a Denver man by the name of Jeff Peckman wants attention.

Jeff Peckman is a sad, white haired (not that there is anything wrong with that) man. He is 54 years old and still lives with his parents. In my opinion, his life is amounting to nothing and he now needs to make a mark. So...

Peckman wants to have a Denver ET Commission so Denver can be the first to be prepared for their arrival. This is not only an additional strain on taxpayers but also is an embarrassment to the area!

Peckman saw Stan's evidence and the two little scamps got together. They then announced on Thursday that they would be showing one piece of the "proof" for the press only on Friday. This "proof" was the video of an alien peeking into Stan's window late at night. This is when I got Bryan's phone call...

So, we spent the evening screwing around with a four foot tall alien prop from a costume shop. I brought my 14 year old son in for the fun. Also joining us were LU and Stu. We had a blast recreating the "evidence" that we felt was

the most obviously fake from Stan's lecture. We had the most fun recreating the “smoking gun,” a video of an alien peeking into Stan’s window and then blinking. Stu was the genius behind the blinking in our video.

That next morning I was awakened by a phone call from one of our local radio celebrities, Peter Boyles. They wanted me on his radio show at 6:00. I thought I should share the Hell and called Bryan and told him that they needed HIM on the air in 20 minutes. Bryan took the opportunity and did a wonderful job on the show.

Needless to say, that was just the beginning of one hell of a day. The two of us did more media in one day than we have done in the whole previous year! The phone just wouldn't stop ringing!

The bad thing is that the press doesn’t listen to what you tell them. They get so damned starry eyed over whether they might get good ratings that they let the details drop. The main detail that got dropped by everyone in this story is the simple fact that Stan’s video was not leaked to the internet. The video that was circulating was the one WE created! No matter how much we repeated this detail, we were ignored. Everyone wanted the exclusive of Stan’s leaked footage.

This has not worked to Stan’s advantage though. Having the video hidden would have created a marketing dream for when his “documentary” or whatever actually came out. Since it became such a media frenzy and there actually was footage to view that was comparable to his, people are roasting him for the bad quality. Funny. As bad as our video is, ours is better quality than his... When his does come out, he will really look bad.

I wouldn’t put it past him to try to re-shoot a better version.

The amount of press that we handled that day was nothing compared to Stan and Jeff. They did all kinds of interviews. It was amazing how the story would change when they were asked why they couldn’t just show the “alien in the window” video to the public.

Somewhere back between 2004 and 2005, the story was that Stan needed to hide his stuff for “security reasons.” Then, the story changed. The exact posting on the website was:

“Stan's information has been temporarily taken off line while he prepares material for his feature film about the most amazing and important UFO/Alien/Government information yet, involving hundreds of witnesses, astounding video and photos, hard

physical evidence, scientific discoveries, and more. No bull."

During the press siege the answers were "the scientists won't let me," "Stan sold his story to the History Channel and they won't allow it," and "Stan's documentary will be available for sale in a few months."

They even had a "film expert" analyze the footage. The reasons he gave as to why it couldn't be faked were that the time-codes had not been altered which meant that there could have been no digital effects. This implied that the "blinking" was real and a cost of $50,000 was what it would cost to build an animatronic alien.

Next, since it was a second story window, the perpetrator would have had to have had scaffolding set up outside.

Somehow, we were able to make all of these things happen for $90?

When I corresponded with this "expert" later, I found out that he was a longtime acquaintance of Stan's and was on the production crew for the upcoming documentary! Vested interest, anyone?

Stan is trying to get us to believe that aliens are an everyday part of his life. They spy on him, chase him, torment him, heal his wounds, give him incredible information, warn him of the government's plan to silence him, allow him to photograph them and show all kinds of questionable proof that they exist, and make darn sure that he doesn't look like a raving idiot in the process! These guys are great!

So, if you were an alien that traveled incredible distances to visit us, wouldn't you make it your first priority (as a show of good will) to pick a dupe to make a complete fool of? I know I would.

I now hear that Stan is making claims about us. His story is that we approached him some time ago and asked to come to his house. He had heard "bad things" about us and denied our request. We became "hellbent" on destroying him because of this denial.

While it is true that we offered our services and he ignored us. We did not get "hellbent" over it. We instead watched who he did allow into his circle. He chose only those with a predisposition to crazy alien stories (believe me, there are plenty of them...). He made no effort to show any skeptic how real his situation was. Very telling, don't you think?

When this came up at a later time being used as "proof" to push a stupid initiative through Denver City Council, we became a bit more "hellbent" to stop it.

I want to make myself clear:

Because of all of this hubub surrounding this recent alien crap, I felt it necessary to make it clear how I feel about extraterrestrial life.

I am now being called a non-believer and debunker of all things alien. It has been offered that I may even be working for the government to help cover this up. Funny thing. I got my start in the paranormal as a UFO investigator with the UFO International Association. I was inspired to pursue this because, as a result of a hypnotic regression, I was led to believe that I, myself, had been visited. My investigations led me to apply logic to the situation and eventually my brain overcame the stupid suggestions of the hypnotic regression.

I can assure you that hanging out with other self-proclaimed abductees is not too fun. Everyone either has the same recycled story or a completely contradictory story. The aliens that were abducting these people came in all shapes and sizes but all seemed humanoid. Even Star Trek was smart enough to make some of the aliens completely different from us! Why hasn't the Horta come to visit us?

I am not so stupid not to realize that there (mathematically) has to be other life in the universe. There is definitely some dispute about whether this other life has had opportunity to become advanced.

Then there is the big question about what a master plan would be of these said aliens. Would it be to spend their resources to come here, run around naked with bodies that mechanically couldn't operate like ours in this gravity, and play jokes on

us? That is a tough one. Sure, you can't *solidly* speculate what the intentions of a said visit would be, but we can connect many reasonable dots and form some sort of a picture.

Instead of making this article a huge document showing the arguments for aliens on Earth, I will just imply that there are some logical and compelling arguments that I'm sure you internet savvy people can unearth on your own.

If aliens were traveling here and if they didn't feel that we were "ready" for them, they would use the utmost care in not exposing themselves. They would not choose select people to mess with because these people are "ready." That doesn't advance any cause they would have and would destroy the lives and reputations of these special people.

"You can't make that speculation!" Peckman has been known to shout.

Yes, I can.

Until we know more, we are forced to work with the information we have. Logic is logic no matter where you come from. Get over yourselves with that argument. It only goes so far.

There is a lot of delusion in the paranormal community but the UFO community is at critical capacity when it comes to crackpots. The lengths they will go to show government conspiracy is amazing and holds no water. Sure, the government likes to keep many things related to national security under wraps. That doesn't mean that we should be insulted and feel lied to. We have them for that purpose, remember? The government needs to be concerned with the possibility of aliens and they are concerned. They aren't going to discuss such a volatile subject with you, Billy-Bob, so get over it!

The indisputable proof that ufologists often show is the same damn proof that ghost hunters show and we all know how reliable that is.

Do I think aliens currently being on Earth is possible? Sure. Do I think they are visiting Stan Romanek? Not a chance.

Do I think that the government knows a lot more about the alien situation than I do? Sure. Do I think we need a local commission to make sure we reap the benefits of aliens among us now? Um, what the Hell are they going to do in this commission to guarantee that?!?

So, let’s recap.

Stan’s story changes as it gets retold. He was genius, he is dumb, aliens were evil, aliens are wonderful, can’t show this because of security reasons, can’t show this because I have a movie

coming out, can't show this because the scientists won't let me.

The photos and video of the UFOs are easily reproducible simply from not knowing how to use your camera correctly.

The amazing equations tell us nothing new and could have been gleaned from a variety of sources.

His "scientists" and "witnesses" all have a predisposition to believing UFO stories or are already in the UFO community.

All of his "evidence" is easily reproducible and doesn't support itself (the wounds on his arms don't directly support the equations or any of his video). This leaves us in a situation where we can only believe Stan's story based on "because I said so."

Our government, which seems to be capable of many amazing and horrible things, can't seem to silence this simple man.

The best piece of evidence is a bad video of an alien puppet peeking in a window when they still have three pieces of an implant that could be analyzed?

The most telling aspect of this is Stan's behavior itself. Let me illustrate.

If you looked very young for your age and bragged about it, someone may challenge your claim. Would you hide from the challenge? Would you only talk to those that already believed you? Would you complain loudly that this challenger is "hellbent" to get you? OR would you simply show them your evidence for closer inspection? Wouldn't you LOVE to prove them wrong by pulling out your birth certificate and your driver's license? Wouldn't you invite them to view it with a smile on your face because you know you are right?

Something is terribly wrong here. Stan continues to hide when there should be nothing to hide. The things he shows are easily picked apart and the alleged "great stuff" is not allowed to be shown for further analysis.

My assessment is that these claims cannot be proven with the evidence being presented. If there are aliens here, they have GOT to be laughing their asses off!

We can conclude this with some thoughts from some of the greatest minds of our time.

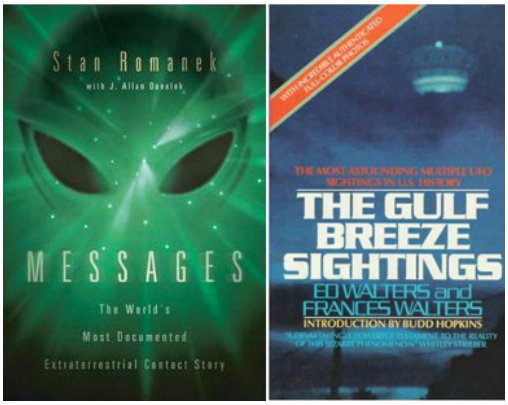
I asked James Randi, today's leader among skeptics, if he thought all of the "experts" in Stan's case had a vested interest. His reply was clear.

"Depend on it, the "PhDs" are the Sarfatti bunch, and they'll all be VERY supportive..." -James Randi

"I am discounting reports of UFO's. Why would they appear only to cranks and weirdoes? If there is a government conspiracy to suppress the reports and keep for itself the scientific knowledge the aliens bring, it seems to have been a singularly ineffective policy so far."
- Steven Hawking

"I think that the alien abduction enthusiasts understand the need for physical evidence. It's the pathway to some degree of respectability. And for 40 years, they've been telling us that the evidence is just around the corner. It's about to be released, it's being studied at this moment - and nothing ever comes of it."
- Carl Sagan 1934-1996

Is Stan Romanek the new Ed Walters?



I have been following the debate between James Carrion (the international director of MUFON and a STAR team investigator) and the followers/defenders of Stan Romanek for the last few months. This along with the recent article by the Rocky Mountain Paranormal Research Society (RMPRS) describing Romanek, has me wondering if UFOlogists like to repeat history. I am sure that many in MUFON will disagree with me but this sounds way too much like the Ed Walters case from twenty years ago.

Romanek's rise to prominence in the UFO community started in 2000-2001, when he began to present videos of UFOs near his work and home. Looking at his website, I have to wonder if he was simply following the Ed Walters blueprint. The similarities are rather interesting:

- Romanek - Presented videos of his UFO encounters to UFO groups and the local media
- Walters - Presented Polaroids and videos to the local media and, eventually, MUFON.
- Romanek - His car was pursued by UFOs (across several states in one case).
- Walters - Aliens pursued him in his truck on several occasions
- Romanek - Aliens came to his home
- Walters - Aliens came to his home
- Romanek - Was physically affected by his encounters with the aliens
- Walters - Was physically affected by his encounters with the aliens.
- Romanek - videos of UFOs look a lot like balloons with flashing lights attached
- Walters - videos of red UFOs look a lot like balloons with road flares attached.
- Romanek - wrote a book and was rumored to have a History channel program planned
- Walters - wrote a book and was rumored to have a television program offer on the table.
- Both proclaimed in their books that their cases were "most documented" or "most astounding".

The only thing missing is the "model" in the attic. However, it really does not stop there. Just like the Gulf Breeze saga, an inner circle has formed around Romanek. They are close associates that will label anybody who questions the case and the evidence as "debunkers" or "government agents". They speak for Romanek and protect the case because they have become personally involved to the point they will believe just about anything Stan says or presents as evidence.

An excellent example of this is when Romanek failed a lie detector test hosted by "Coast-to-coast AM". Not surprisingly, an unknown source named "Brent" came up with a ready made excuse for Romanek. According to this source, he knew the person administering the exam and the examiner went out of his way to falsify the results and trip up Romanek. This was widely circulated and the individual, who administered the test was labeled a "religious fanatic" (and probably a debunker). We don't even know if "Brent" is who he says he is and if he actually knew the individual, who performed the test! It was simply accepted as fact.

James Carrion's recent concerns have to do with how the word "follow" is misspelled the same way ("fallow") in several UFO reports that are being used to support the Romanek case. It is also misspelled the same way in a supposedly official AF document found in Romanek's mailbox. In order to find a way around this, Mrs. Romanek has presented the names of the individuals who supposedly sent these UFO reports. Apparently, Mr. Romanek can not defend his own claims and has chosen to have his wife "carry his water" for him in this debate.

The bottom line is the Carrion wants to have the evidence scientifically evaluated by independent analysts. This is good science and should be applauded. It is too bad that Stan Romanek's little circle is not going to allow a real scientific investigation to occur. Even if others offer to pay for such examinations, the group chooses to have some ready made excuse not to allow it to happen. When Romanek told ABC he had an X-ray of an implant in his leg, they offered to have it medically examined. He then proclaimed the implant has since "disappeared". The best way to keep a farce like this going is to protect the "evidence". Even Ed Walters knew this and he would not allow anybody, outside of his little circle, to closely examine his photographs.

Just as this issue was going to press, James Carrion reported that Stan Romanek contacted MUFON in order to file a lawsuit against them. Apparently, he is really after James Carrion and not MUFON as a whole. I find it odd that MUFON's leadership is not making a stand here. Is MUFON afraid to investigate, unable to investigate, or are they unwilling to investigate? In my opinion, it is time for those "movers and shakers" in the UFO community to demand that a full investigation be made by competent and independent investigators. Their silence on this matter is deafening.

If the leaders of UFOlogy (assuming they do exist) want it this way, then they are just demonstrating that UFOlogy is not a "science" ,where standards of evidence apply in the search for an answer. Science can quickly identify a hoax by carefully examining the evidence. Perhaps UFOlogy should simply proclaim itself a "religion", where you can pick and choose what you believe and disbelieve. Charlatans often find religious groups fruitful ground on which to flourish. This appears to be the case with the Stan Romanek saga.

UFOs on the tube

Mystery Quest: Alien cover up

I was really looking forward to watching this program since it featured Peter Merlin. Unfortunately, what looked like a new and insightful approach to the Area 51 mystery turned out to be the same old conspiracy nonsense and speculation about what the government is hiding.

The show's first focus was on Robert Lazar. It gave the impression that his claims were factual but they aren't. Does anybody really believe that Lazar is credible these days? With this presentation, it was obvious that the show was going down the conspiracy and reverse engineering alien spaceships path. One could easily have predicted most of the clips shown in the television show. Some of the more bizarre parts included Robert Morningstar. He described how the Nazca Lines were used as a guide for alien spaceships to follow. I guess their ship's navigation systems were not superior to straight lines drawn in the desert somewhere. Morningstar also repeated the bogus claims made in the UFO hunters episode about AUTEC in the Bahamas. Apparently, the producers for this show were just as gullible.

Much of the show appeared staged. This was obvious when the camera crew went to a mysterious crash site identified by Peter Merlin. Thanks to Peter's article last month, I immediately identified the rocket nose cone of the D-21B drone they showed being "discovered". The show's producers attempted to make it appear like it was just found. However, Peter had found it in 2005. They also stated that it was too heavy to move and analyze. However, you could see Merlin place it on its side with very little effort. Instead they went out searching the area and "discovered" some unusual fragments that were later tested. They were found to have been made of earthly brass.

The program also set up three cameras to capture UFOs/exotic aircraft over Area 51 in a 48 hour period. The wide angle lenses used in these cameras were pretty useless unless something huge appeared or conducted exotic maneuvers. The recorded a cloud and some car lights on the highway. It was no surprise this weak effort was a bust.

The highlight of the show was a trip to Tikaboo mountaintop with a high powered telescope. It had to be the most ridiculously staged dramas I have seen since "UFO Hunters". While they were scaling the mountain, a helicopter and F-16 flew around the area. The helicopter was identified as a blackhawk and it was suggested that it was a special ops helicopter. More than likely it was a USAF Pavehawk used for security measures. It left after twenty minutes and was not seen again implying it was just a curiosity issue and not a security one that prompted the helicopter to pay the visit. Glenn Campbell suggested they should leave or that "authorities" might be waiting for them when they went back down. I seriously doubt the military or local "authorities" would interfere with any television program because it would not be the best publicity. I am sure the producers probably checked to see if it was OK before they even attempted the trip up the mountaintop.

The "MysteryQuest" program could have been ground breaking had they decided to be honest with the viewer. They could have described the D-21B crash retrieval in detail and shown close-ups of the rocket cone. I am sure they would have been able to see the "skunk works" markings on some of the materials (just like Peter demonstrated last month). They also could have described the true history of Area 51 with the testing of various secret aircraft. Lastly, they could have debunked the claims of Bob Lazar. It could have been an educational and well thought out program.

Instead of doing something different, the producers of the show decided to do the same old stuff. They chose to misrepresent most, if not all, of what was shown. I felt sorry for Peter Merlin and Glenn Campbell. Their participation was nothing more than an attempt to rubber stamp the show as authentic. Most of their input was obviously ignored by the producers in order to sell another conspiracy theory. Mystery Quest was a waste of time.

Book Reviews

Buy it! (No UFO library should do without it)

UFOs: Explained - Philip Klass

In my opinion this is Phil's best work in his trilogy of UFO books. It seemed to me the best written of the three and focused on some very pertinent issues associated with UFO reports. He also revealed his 10 UFOlogical principles that I feel are reasonably thought out. The cases presented are good but I did find his work on Socorro somewhat lacking. Like Quintanilla, he could not find anything significant. As a result, he fell back to the hoax scenario on some weak evidence. If you want to have one UFO book by Klass, this is the one.

Borrow it. (Worth checking out of library or borrowing from a friend)

UFOs: The public deceived - Philip Klass

This book is not bad either. Some of it focuses on what Allan Hendry wrote in his UFO Handbook, while other chapters discussed various aspects of witness reliability. It also presented new cases that appeared after his second book was published. Some of them are well researched, while others fall a bit short. Borrow this one to read his take on these cases as well as some of the other items he covers. You may gain something from it.

Bin it! (Not worth the paper it is written upon - send to recycle bin)

UFOs: Identified - Philip Klass

This book was Klass first endeavor into UFOs. His theory about plasmas and ball lightning were not well received and he really stretched some ideas. He also fell for a hoax photograph as evidence for his theory. Needless to say, this was embarrassing for him and it would affect his later writings on the subject. I found this book in a used book store about a decade ago. When I read it then, I was not overly impressed. I am still not that impressed. It sits in my library collecting dust as part of my Klass collection. Don't waste your time trying to obtain this copy. It is not worth it.